REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The remarks presented herein are being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

II.   REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,771,663 to Jha (hereinafter, merely "Jha") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,360 to Muller et al. (hereinafter, merely "Muller"). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Jha in view of Muller and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,969,770 to Horton ("Horton").

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"A signal processing apparatus ...

... **supplying to said memory means data generated by said processing means after execution of one or more of the plurality of functional operations** ..." (Emphasis added)

As understood by the Applicants, Jha relates to an apparatus for receiving, processing and transmitting one or more packets of a plurality of packet types. This includes steps of (A) receiving the one or more packets, (B) processing the one or more packets, and (C) transmitting the one or more packets. The receiving step includes (i) receiving a packet, (ii) determining a packet type indicating a type of data contained in the packet based on a packet identifier and (iii) processing the packet based on the packet type. The processing step includes (i) identifying a length of the frame, (ii) reading a header (and/or footer) of the packet, and (iii)

identifying a reusability of a packet type of the one or more packet types in response to the header. The transmitting step includes (i) retrieving a packet type, (ii) retrieving a packet, and (iii) storing the packet type in the packet.

As understood by the Applicants, Muller relates to a high performance network interface for receiving a packet from a network and transferring it to a host computer system. A header portion of a received packet is parsed by a parser module to determine the packet's compatibility with, or conformance to, one or more pre-selected protocols. If compatible, a number of processing functions may be performed to increase the efficiency with which the packet is handled. In one function, a re-assembly engine re-assembles, in a re-assembly buffer, data portions of multiple packets in a single communication flow or connection. Header portions of such packets are stored in a header buffer. An incompatible packet may be stored in another buffer. In another function, a packet batching module determines when multiple packets in one flow are transferred to the host computer system, so that their header portions are processed collectively rather than being interspersed with headers of other flows' packets.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Jha nor Muller teach or disclose the above identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, none of the cited references, considered either alone or in combination, teach or suggest supplying to the memory means data generated by the processing means after execution of one or more of the plurality of functional operations, as recited in claim 1.

The relied upon portions of Jha merely disclose an apparatus for receiving, processing and transmitting one or more packets of a plurality of packet types, comprising the steps of (A) receiving the one or more packets, (B) processing the one or more packets, and (C) transmitting the one or more packets. The transmitting step comprises (i) retrieving a packet

type, (ii) retrieving a packet, and (iii) <u>storing the packet type in the packet</u>. *Jha*, col. 5, line 59-

col. 6, line 5. Jha further discloses that if a particular node detects an incoming SONET frame

on a receive port, or if there is a frame in the transmit/receive queue, the node checks the frame

to see if there are unused/reusable areas in the incoming/queued frame that can be used for

sending data. If there is enough space available in the frame, the node fills the space with

additional data before sending the frame out. *Jha*, col. 12, lines 49-50. There is no suggestion in

Jha for <u>supplying to the memory means data generated by the processing means after execution</u>

<u>of one or more of the plurality of functional operations</u>, as recited in claim 1. Specifically, Jha

merely stores the packet type in the packet and <u>does not</u> supply data generated by the processing

means to the memory means, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is

patentable and therefore should be allowed.

Claims 2-8 depend on claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the same

reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits

is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with

respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner

specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

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       Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance

and requests early passage to issue of the present application.

                       Respectfully submitted,

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